

REMARKS

Claims 14-26 remain in this application. None of these claims have been amended. Applicants note that original claims 1-13 of the International Application were canceled in the Preliminary Amendment which was filed on March 20, 2002. Pursuant to such Preliminary Amendment, new claims 14-26 were added. For purposes of this response, Applicants will assume that the Examiner's comments outlined in the Office Action were directed toward presently-pending claims 14-26, rather than canceled claims 1-13. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that redrafted independent claim 14 substantially reflects the same claim coverage proposed in original claim 1.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all of the claims of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EPO 924 918 (Wong) as well as by WO 98/57501 (May). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection and, accordingly, respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

Primarily, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has perhaps overlooked a fundamental aspect of the present invention wherein the setting up of voice/data links *occurs on the terminal side of the system, rather than on the network side*. Such configuration is best and most simply exemplified by that which is shown in Figure 1 of the present application. Here it is clearly exemplified that the claimed base unit/subscriber access adapter/transfer method evaluation unit are all positioned on the terminal side of an associated switch (or service provider 2). Beyond such switch, of course, communications are enabled to either an Internet network or a PSTN network.

Conversely, a look at the communications networks disclosed by either the Wong or May references clearly shows that the respective mechanisms for setting up voice/data links for either line-switching or packet-switching networks occurs on the network side; i.e., beyond the switch (or service provider). Given this fundamental difference offered by the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Wong nor the May reference teach or suggest the elements of "a base unit for setting up...", "a subscriber access adapter for connecting the base unit to a service provider..." and "a transfer method evaluation unit in the base unit...".

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 of the present application, as well as claims 15-26 which respectfully depend therefrom, are both novel

and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is further noted that a one month extension of time of \$110.00 is due in connection with this response at this time. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket Number (0112740-550) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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